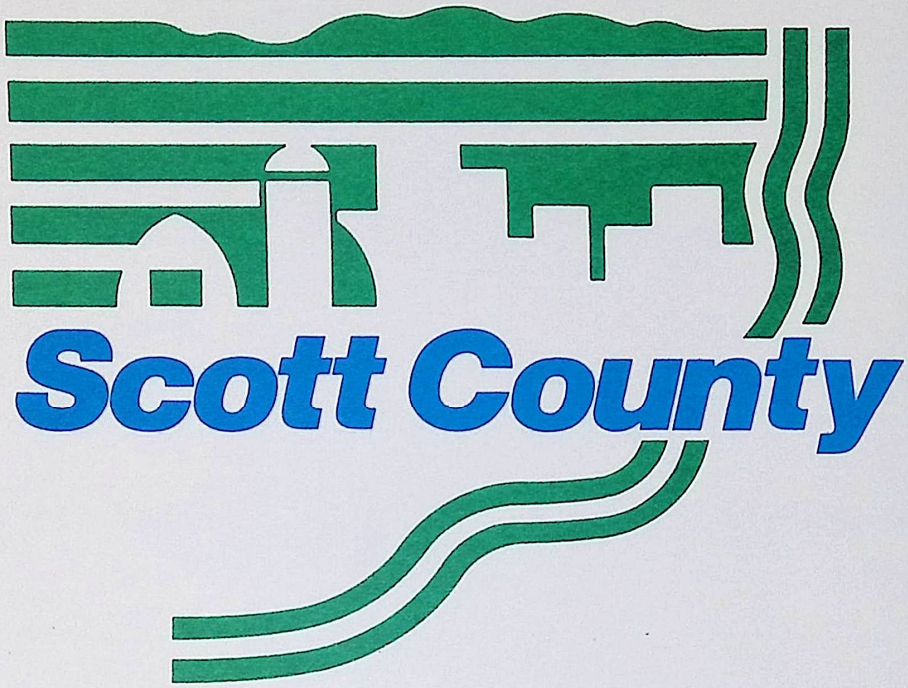

Scott County

SCOTT COUNTY

We Serve Our Citizens With

Professionalism	Doing It Right
Responsiveness	Doing It Now
Involvement	Doing It Together
Dedication	Doing It With Commitment
Excellence	Doing It Well

Scott County

Past to the Present

Settlement first began in this area in 1833 in Valley City, which is now known as Pleasant Valley. Soon after towns sprang up in Rockingham and Davenport. By 1836 the first survey of public land in Iowa was called for, and by March of 1837 the Scott County area had been completely surveyed. The territorial governor required this survey prior to the organization of the county. Subsequently, Scott County was established by an act of the territorial legislature of Wisconsin in December, 1837. The new county was named in honor of General Winfield Scott, who was the presiding officer at the signing of the peace treaty ending the Blackhawk War.

The year 1838 was a year of organization for Scott County. The first election of county officers was held on the third Monday in February. B. F. Pike, A. W. Campbell, and Alfred Carter were selected as County Commissioners. In October, Major Frazer Wilson was appointed Sheriff. He served both Scott and Rock Island Counties. St. Anthony's Church in Davenport hosted the first Scott County District Court that same year. The first session lasted three days, and the juries met in an available room on the nearby property of George L. Davenport.

The voters of Scott County were also responsible for choosing the county seat in the election of 1838. Rockingham and the newly incorporated city of Davenport were the competitors. After Davenport had seemingly won, cries of fraud were raised following the election, so another election was held in August. This time Davenport, Rockingham and Winfield were the competitors. Davenport, however, offered more land, buildings and cash donations than the other two towns and eventually won by default.

Antoine LeClaire, an early settler of the county, donated the square of land the Scott County Courthouse stands on today. If the county ever abandons the site, the property would revert to the heirs of Antoine LeClaire. The first courthouse was erected on this land during 1840-41 and served for 45 years. Antoine LeClaire himself dedicated the site on April 6, 1841.

The period from 1845 to 1880 saw changes and additions to the structure of Scott County government. One of the major changes was in the structure of the governing board. From 1838 until 1850 county commissioners were elected on an annual basis. By 1861 the name Board of Supervisors had been mandated, with 14 supervisors from throughout the county representing the citizens. In 1870 the structure changed again, and only three board supervisors were elected county-wide. In 1874, the membership of the Board of Supervisors increased to its present five officials.

Other governmental activities during this period included the elections of the first County Treasurer and County Auditor, in 1843 and 1869 respectively. Scott County's first prosecuting attorney was elected in 1847. Judge Henry H. Benson was elected the initial circuit court judge in 1868. Township lines were organized in 1846, and the first permanent fire company was established in 1856.

With added elected officials and increased county responsibilities, the first Courthouse was declared inadequate, so a second courthouse was erected in 1886. This Courthouse was magnificent architecturally, but poor structurally. Cracks were evident from settling even before plastering began. The Courthouse was slowly sinking into the sandy soil, and continued to even after the huge dome was removed. After enduring severely cracked walls, termites, and dangerously slanting steps, the Board of Supervisors commissioned the demolition of the second courthouse on March 22, 1955.

The second courthouse had served through a period of phenomenal growth for Scott County as it moved into the twentieth century. Population figures grew from 51,500 in 1900 to over 100,000 by 1950. In conjuction with this population growth, citizen services also increased. In 1949 the county undertook zoning responsibilities, and in 1956 the Conservation Board was formed. By the 1960's the Conservation Board had created the Scott County Park System for citizen use. Another important service, the Scott County Library, started up in 1950. Health and Community Services' responsibilities also increased greatly during this time.

The growing functions of the county made adequate facilities a necessity, so from 1955 to 1980 the county undertook physical expansion projects. In 1955 the Board of Supervisors authorized construction for the present aluminum-clad Scott County Courthouse. The Annex was remodeled in 1973, and the Bi-Centennial Building was renovated for county use in 1976. In 1980 the people passed the New Jail Referendum for physical improvements in the county jail, which was erected in 1897.

Only recently have there been dramatic changes in the actual governing of the county. In 1979 an administrator form of government was adopted, and the Board of Supervisors hired a county administrator. Subsequently, staff and departments have grown in efficiency and capacity to serve citizens. In 1978 the County Home Rule Bill was enacted, granting all powers to counties consistent with state laws and not specifically prohibited by the Iowa General Assembly. County Home Rule broadened the powers of the Board of Supervisors to lead the 160,000 people of Scott County to greater prosperity and growth.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * *

Scott County Courthouse
416 West Fourth Street
Davenport, Iowa 52801
326-8611

Bi-Centennial Building
428 Western Avenue
Davenport, Iowa 52801

Annex Building
518 West Fourth Street
Davenport, Iowa 52801

Elected Officials

Board of Supervisors

Margaret N. Tinsman, Chair
Courthouse 326-8749
Term: 1987-91

Otto L. Ewoldt
Courthouse 326-8749
Term: 1987-91

Bill Fennelly
Courthouse 326-8749
Term: 1985-89

Robert E. Petersen
Courthouse 326-8749
Term: 1985-89

Edwin G. Winborn
Courthouse 326-8749
Term: 1987-91

County Attorney

William E. Davis
Courthouse 326-8600
Term: 1987-91

County Sheriff

Forrest E. Ashcraft
Courthouse 326-8625
Term: 1985-89

County Auditor

Karen L. Fitzsimmons
Courthouse 326-8631
Term: 1985-89

County Treasurer

William P. Cusack
Courthouse 326-8776
Term: 1987-91

County Recorder

Richard F. Hagen
Courthouse 326-8621
Term: 1987-91

Appointed Officials

County Administrator
F. Glen Erickson
Courthouse 326-8702

Budget & Information Processing
C. Ray Wierson, Director
Courthouse 326-8719

Buildings & Grounds
Phil Huber, Director
Courthouse 326-8738

Community Services
Michael J. Hartman, Director
Bicentennial Bldg. 326-8723

Conservation
Dan Nagle, Board Administrator
West Lake Park
P.O. Box 213
Long Grove, IA 52756
381-1114

Health
Lawrence E. Barker, Director
Bicentennial Bldg. 326-8618

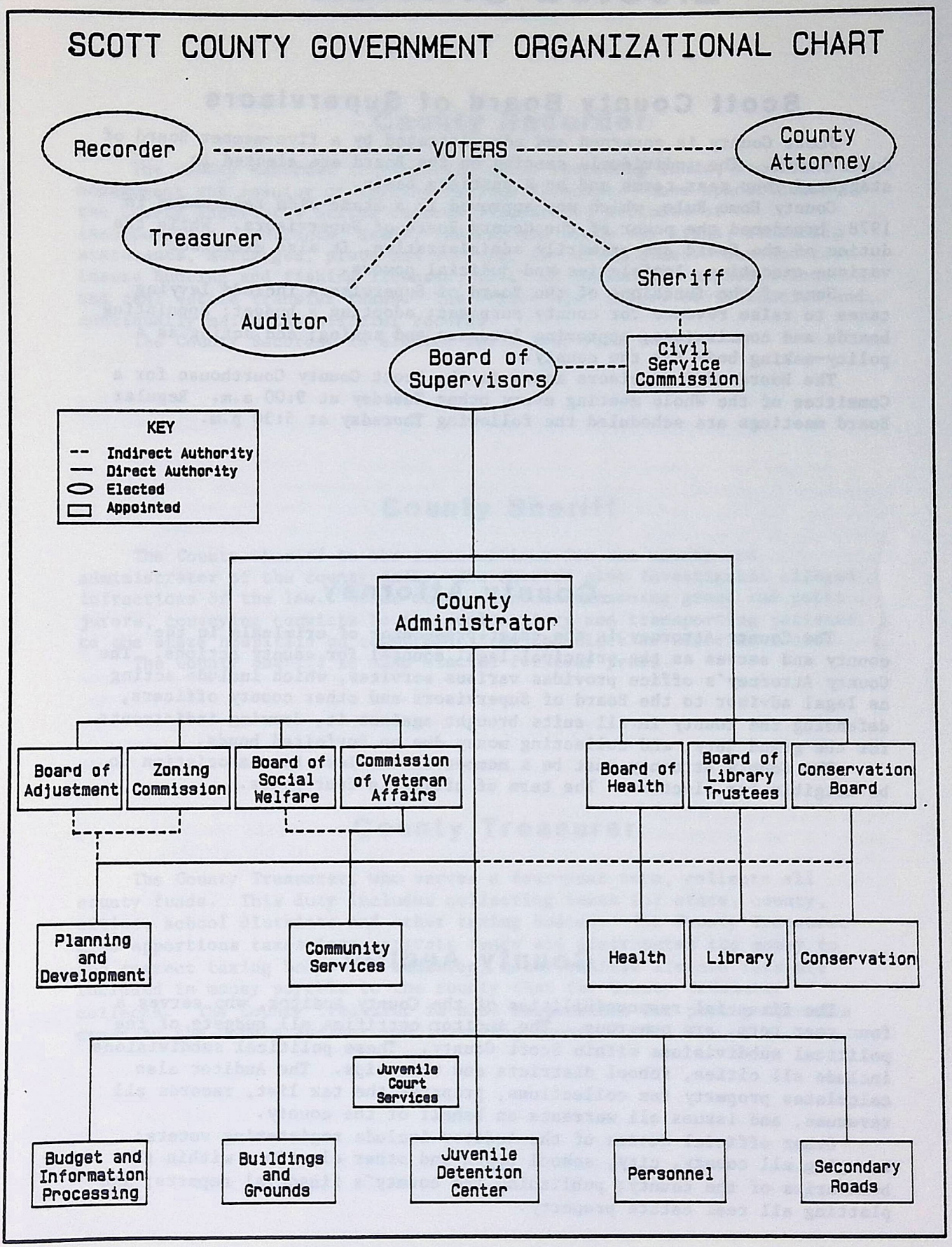
Library
Vacant, Librarian
215 N. 2nd Street
Eldridge, IA 52748
285-4794

Personnel
Kevin F. O'Brien, Director
Courthouse 326-8767

Planning & Development
Philip Rovang, Director
Courthouse 326-8643

Secondary Roads
Robert DeWys, County Engineer
Annex Bldg. 326-8305

SCOTT COUNTY GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



Elected Officials

Scott County Board of Supervisors

Scott County is governed and administrated by a five-member Board of Supervisors. The individuals serving on the Board are elected in staggered four year terms and on a partisan basis.

County Home Rule, which was approved in a State-wide referendum in 1978, broadened the power of the County Board of Supervisors. While the duties of the Board are primarily administrative, it also exercises various executive, legislative and judicial powers.

Some of the functions of the Board of Supervisors include levying taxes to raise revenue for county purposes; adopting a budget; appointing boards and commissions; approving licenses and zoning; and acting as a policy-making body for the county.

The Board of Supervisors meets in the Scott County Courthouse for a Committee of the Whole meeting every other Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Regular Board meetings are scheduled the following Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

County Attorney

The County Attorney is the chief prosecutor of criminals in the county and serves as the principal legal counsel for county actions. The County Attorney's office provides various services, which include acting as legal advisor to the Board of Supervisors and other county officers, defending the county in all suits brought against it, drawing indictments for the grand jury, and collecting money due on forfeited bonds.

The County Attorney must be a member of the Iowa Bar Association to be eligible for election. The term of office is four years.

County Auditor

The financial responsibilities of the County Auditor, who serves a four year term, are numerous. The Auditor certifies all budgets of the political subdivisions within Scott County. These political subdivisions include all cities, school districts and townships. The Auditor also calculates property tax collections, prepares the tax list, records all revenues, and issues all warrants on behalf of the county.

Other official duties of the Auditor include registering voters; managing all county, city, school board and other elections within the boundaries of the county; publishing the county's financial reports; and platting all real estate property.

County Recorder

The County Recorder is responsible for recording lands, records and management and issuing or selling various licenses. More specifically, the County Recorder's office records affidavits, articles of incorporation, contracts, deeds, federal and state tax liens, financing statements, mortgages, plats and surveys, and trade names. The Recorder issues hunting and fishing licenses, boat and snowmobile registrations and real estate transfer taxes. The office also offers certification and continually maintains official records.

The County Recorder is elected for a four-year term.

County Sheriff

The County Sheriff is the peace officer for the county and administrator of the county jail. The Sheriff also investigates alleged infractions of the law. Other duties include summoning grand and petit jurors, conveying convicts to the penitentiary and transporting patients to the state hospitals on commitment from the Clerk of District Court.

The County Sheriff is also elected for four years.

County Treasurer

The County Treasurer, who serves a four-year term, collects all county funds. This duty includes collecting taxes for state, county, cities, school districts and other taxing bodies. The County Treasurer also apportions taxes into separate funds and distrubutes the money to the correct taxing body. In addition, motor vehicle license fees are included in money payable to the county that the County Treasurer collects. The County Treasurer is also responsible for paying warrants drawn by the County Auditor and investing county funds.

Departments

Administration

The County Administrator heads the Office of Administration, which assists the Board of Supervisors in carrying out their responsibilities. The department acts as a liaison between the Board of Supervisors and various departments. This key department also acts for the Board in dealings with authorized agencies and other governments. Since Administration provides overall supervision for appointed department heads, it coordinates activities which impact more than one department and provides support to departments so that they can carry out their mission.

Budget and Information Processing

Budget and Information Processing is basically a support services department, providing computer services; risk management; print shop, clerical and mail services; micro-filming; inventory control and centralized purchasing. The other major function of the department involves preparing and monitoring the annual county budget. Budget and Information Processing coordinates financial management reporting, monitors receipts, reviews all claims bi-weekly and gives a quarterly report to the Board of Supervisors. The department is created by county ordinances and employs 25 people.

Buildings and Grounds

The Buildings and Grounds Department maintains physical aspects of the Scott County Jail, Courthouse, Bi-Centennial Building, Annex, and Pine Knoll Health Care Facility. It provides custodial services and security and coordinates construction projects with outside contractors. The department is also responsible for the condition of the grounds around the buildings and enforcement of the parking lot ordinance.

Community Services

The Community Services department has responsibility over three major areas: General Relief, Veterans Services and Mental Health Programs. The largest of those areas is Mental Health Programs in which Community Services coordinates and monitors the mental health services and community residential placements. In General Relief the department provides basic needs assistance to eligible individuals. In addition; this department also staffs the Veterans Affairs Commission. Originally the Community Services Department's responsibilities were split among four different departments; it assumed its present form in 1985.

Conservation

Scott County Conservation maintains and develops the extensive county park system. Seven recreational areas, staffed by fifteen regular and 60 seasonal employees, comprise the Scott County recreation system. Scott County Park is the largest in the county at 1,270 acres. Camping, a petting zoo, a swimming pool, Glynns Creek nature trail and the Walnut Grove Pioneer Village are some of the attractions. Buffalo Shores Recreation Area, West Lake Park, Buena Vista Public Use Area and Allens Grove Park are all camping sites. The "Buffalo Bill" Cody Homestead is an historical area, and the Cameron Timber Preserve is primarily a nature study site.

The Conservation Board, organized in 1956, is responsible for conserving natural resources and developing recreational facilities for the county.

Health

The Scott County Health Department has responsibilities in two divisions: Environmental Health and Disease Prevention & Health Promotion. While the Board of Supervisors controls all appropriations, the Health Department is governed by the Board of Health. In support of the department's goal, "To protect and promote public health of Scott County," various programs and services are provided. Air pollution monitoring, childhood immunization, communicable disease awareness, food service establishments and mass gatherings regulations, non-public water supplies checks, public health education, and communicable and sexually-transmitted diseases treatment and prevention are just a sample of the services provided by the Health Department and its 23 employees.

Library

The Scott County Library System serves over 29,000 Scott County residents outside the cities of Davenport and Bettendorf. The headquarters is located in Eldridge. Station libraries are scattered throughout the county in Blue Grass, Buffalo, Durant, LeClaire, Long Grove, New Liberty, Park View, Princeton and Walcott. Bookmobile service is also provided. The library system offers several features including an automated circulation system, photocopy services, videocassettes, speakers, interlibrary loan service, home-bound service, storyhours and an information service. The Scott County Library System has 105,000 volumes available.

The Library Board oversees all activities and approves the budget for the library system.

Personnel

The Personnel Department provides services to employees of Scott County and coordinates recruitment and selection for available jobs within the county frame-work. Employee-oriented services include classification and pay, insurance and benefit administration, labor relations coordination and various employee programs, such as quality circles, tuition reimbursement, employee recognition, and training and development. Other functions include assuring Equal Employment Opportunity compliance, representing the Board of Supervisors in collective bargaining, and administering the governmental trainee program.

Planning and Development

Since 1949 Scott County has had a zoning function, and in 1965 the Department of Zoning and Building was created. With the addition of land use planning and economic development to its responsibilities, the department took on the name Planning and Development in 1985. The department is responsible for all zoning ordinances, building codes, subdivision regulations, tax deed auctions, land use planning, dead animal claims and noxious weed complaints outside of city limits. The newest responsibility of the department is economic development. Planning and Development manages Scott County Regional Industrial Park, county tourism and coordinates development with other area cities.

Secondary Roads

The County Engineer, who heads the Secondary Roads Department, is responsible for administration of road and bridge construction and maintenance. The Secondary Roads Department is responsible for the 556 miles of road, 150 of which are paved, and the 120 bridges existing in unincorporated Scott County. The department maintains the road system at an acceptable level and works at improvements. Much of the heavier or specialized work is contracted. The department consists of approximately $3 million in equipment, the majority of which is housed in an Eldridge facility. Other equipment and snowplows are interspersed throughout the county.

Boards and Commissions

The Board of Supervisors delegates some of its responsibility, or is required to appoint citizens, to various committees. These bodies perform specific functions, but generally they screen, adjust and recommend rulings and policies for approval by the Board of Supervisors. The following are samples of the committees made up by Board appointees. The descriptions below do not include the numerous inter-governmental committees to which the Board of Supervisors also appoints members.

Board of Health

The Board of Health is allowed to make and enforce reasonable rules not inconsistent with the law or with the rules of the state in its duty of overseeing the Scott County Health Department. Primarily, however, the Board of Health enforces state health laws and rules of the State Health Department as they relate to the local Health Department.

The board consists of five members, including one member who must be licensed in Iowa as a Doctor of Medicine or as an Osteopathic Physician and Surgeon.

Board of Social Welfare

The Board of Social Welfare is unique in that it has functions related to two agencies. The board has Iowa Code mandated responsibilities toward the Iowa Department of Human Services, a state agency, and separate responsibility to the Department of Community Services, an agency of the county. The board makes decisions concerning allocation of the Child Care Center Financial Assistance Fund and advises the Board of Supervisors in aspects related to County relief. The board also acts in a program advisory capacity to the Iowa Department of Human Services.

The five members serve one year terms and are appointed by the Board of Supervisors.

Building Board of Appeals

The Building Board of Appeals is a required entity because the county has a building code. The main function of the board is to handle requests for variances from building standards. For instance, a contractor must have any alternate method reviewed if it is different from published building standards. The board reviews all requests and possesses approval power.

The members of the board must be from the construction field: architecture, carpentary, contractor, etc. The five members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors for five year terms.

Civil Service Commission

Three people serve six-year, staggered terms on the Civil Service Commission. The Board of Supervisors, the County Attorney, and the Chief Judge of the Seventh Judicial District each appoint one member.

The commission generally oversees the hiring and general employment practices related to the deputy sheriffs. They run the selection process for deputy sheriff applicants, organize promotions, and serve as the review board for disciplinary proceedings.

Compensation Board

The Compensation Board is made up of seven county residents, none of whom may be officers or employees of the state or any of its political subdivisions. The members are appointed by elected county officials, and serve four-year, staggered terms. The Board of Supervisors appoints two, and the County Attorney, Auditor, Recorder, Sheriff and Treasurer each appoint one.

The Compensation Board meets anually to study comparable salaries and prepare a compensation schedule for the succeeding fiscal year. The Board of Supervisors may either accept the schedule or reduce the recommended increases.

Conservation Board

The Conservation Board is made up of five members serving five year terms, who are appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The board plans, develops, preserves, administers and maintains all parks and camp grounds in the county. A major responsibility involves supervising the Conservation Department.

The Conservation Board is concerned with land use, so it obtains approval from the State Conservation Commission for acquisition or exchange of land and general development plans. In other duties, the board charges and collects fees for use of facilities.

Jail Advisory Committee

The large, eleven-member Jail Advisory Committee is a creation of Scott County. Each of the Board of Supervisors appoints two members to the committee, and their appointees serve concurrent terms with the Board of Supervisor's own tenure. The chair is chosen by the entire Board of Supervisors.

Basically, the Jail Advisory Committee advises the Board of Supervisors and monitors their actions in areas concerning incarceration of adults and youth, and alternatives to incarceration. The committee oversees programs for the Scott County Jail and the Juvenile Detention Center.

Library Board

Supervising the county library system is the main duty of the Scott County Library Board, which was one of the first library boards created in the state. The nine members meet once a month to approve bills, check circulation, look at the budget, and approve projects. All major library activities must be confirmed by the board. The board also chooses the library director.

The Board of Supervisors make all appointments, and the designated people serve six-year, staggered terms.

Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board

The Mental Health/Mental Retardation Advisory Board is a seven-member body appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Those interested in mental health and mental retardation comprise the membership. The board makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and oversees development of local plans and use of state funds.

Planning and Zoning Commission

The Planning and Zoning Commission advises the Board of Supervisors on implementing and updating the development plan for Scott County. Similarly, the commission implements zoning and subdivision ordinances, suggesting adjustments when necessary. Other duties include reviewing site plans for unincorporated Scott County.

The Board of Supervisors appoints seven citizens to the commission. The majority of the appointees must reside within the county but outside the corporate limits of any city.

Veterans Affairs Commission

The Veteran's Affairs Commission prepares an annual budget and meets monthly to assess the services it offers through the Veterans Affairs segment of the Community Services Department. Functions of the commission include responsibility for supplying basic needs assistance and suitable burial for honorably discharged men and women. The commission also provides relevant information to the State Department of Veteran Affairs.

Zoning Board of Adjustment

Five citizens are appointed for five year terms to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. The majority of these members must reside outside the corporate limits of any city.

The board makes decisions concerning interpretations of zoning regulations. For instance, they decide on proper interpretation of a zoning ordinance and authorize variations in the application of an ordinance. They also rule on applications for special use permits.

Authorized Agencies

Scott County participates in funding several authorized agencies in the Quad City area to provide services to the citizens of the county. These services range from economic development to volunteer ambulance service. The county is required by law to provide many services, but officials have discovered that outside service entities are sometimes better alternatives. These outside entities can provide the citizens service more effectively and efficiently than the county could on its own. The county's decision to create a contract or an agreement with an outside agency may be based on service quality, cost-effectiveness and unwillingness to duplicate services already being provided.

Many of the authorized agencies are inter-governmental, and therefore funding is shared by various political jurisdictions. Other entities are non-profit agencies, and the public and private sectors share the funding.

The county approves a certain amount of money to fund each authorized agency. This funding allows the county to monitor the agency's expenditures, level of service and citizen satisfaction. Certain county employees are designated to actually perform the monitoring function. Those authorized agencies funded in part by Scott County include:

Bi-State Metropolitan Planning Commission

Buffalo Volunteer Ambulance

Center for Alcohol and Drug Services

Commission on Aging

Community Health Care

Davenport Hospital Ambulance Corporation

Disaster Services

Durant Volunteer Ambulance

Handicapped Development Center

Humane Society

LeClaire Volunteer Ambulance

Mississippi Valley Fair

Quad-City Development Group

Vera French Community Mental Health Center

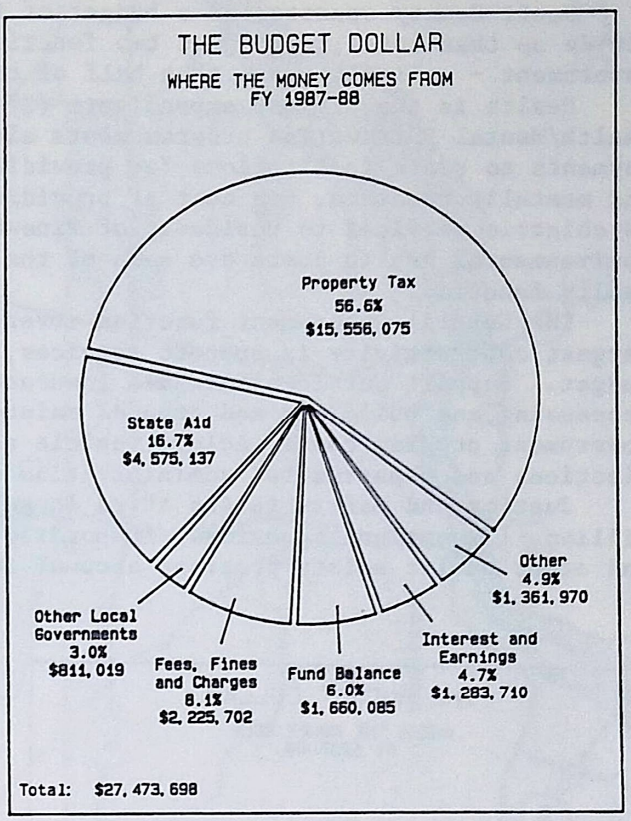
Visiting Nurse and Homemaker Service

The Budget Dollar

Where The Money Comes From

Property tax revenues support 56.6% of the total $27.5 million budget. The $15.5 million in property taxes come from estimated FY 1987-88 collections and delinquent taxes from previous years.

State aid comprises the second largest portion of county revenues. Various property tax replacement credits, totalling close to $2 million, are distributed to the county from the state, and they include: homestead, elderly and disabled, personal property, and agricultural credits. State shared revenues, mostly the road use tax, amount to $1.3 million. County government assistance funds, franchise taxes, child support program reimbursements and pass-through state health department funds are also included in state aid revenues.



The county also collects funds for services, and these are 8.1% of total revenues. Statutory fees are collected for such things as vehicle registration, filing of deeds, sheriff service of papers, various permits and licenses.

Interest and earnings, which is 4.7% of the total revenues, has declined in recent years due to lower interest rates.

Other Local Governments also contribute to Scott County revenues. The county is reimbursed for work or services performed for these local governments. For instance, the county may maintain a road in Eldridge or the county library may provide services to the City of Buffalo. A large portion of the Other Local Governments revenues also comes from the Seventh Judicial Court District for the purchase of computer services.

Fund balance represents $1.6 million of the total revenues. This amount primarily reflects the use of previously reserved funds (federal revenue sharing and industrial lot sale proceeds) for the construction of the Secondary Roads Maintenance Facility. One thing to note about county revenues is the fact that there is no longer any form of federal aid, which used to be received by the county through the Federal Revenue Sharing Program. The state provides 16.7% of the revenues, but the rest is left to be provided locally.

The Budget Dollar

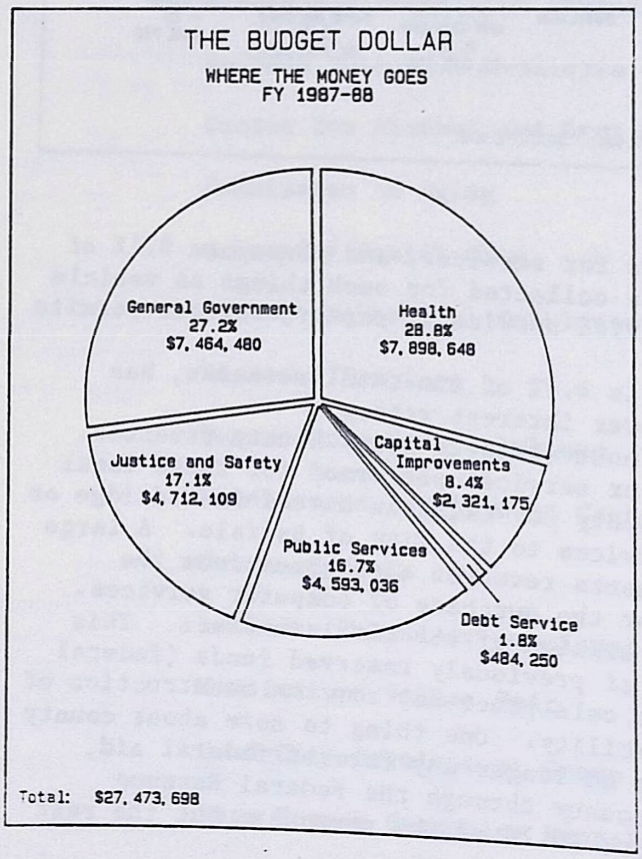
Where The Money Goes

Scott County operates on a budget of $27,473,698. Six functions divide up that total, with just two functions - Health and General Government - utilizing more than half of the budget.

Health is the biggest expenditure ($7.9 million), where Mental Health/Mental Retardation program costs alone amount to $6,150,080. Payments to state institutions for providing services to the mentally ill and mentally retarded, the cost of providing psychological and psychiatric services to residents of Pine Knoll Health Care Facility, and environmental health costs are some of the larger cost components of the Health function.

The General Government function covers a broad spectrum. The largest cost activity is support services, which is 15% of the total budget. Support services includes insurance program costs, data processing and buildings and grounds maintenance. Other General Government program costs include vehicle registration, tax collection, elections and departmental administration expenses.

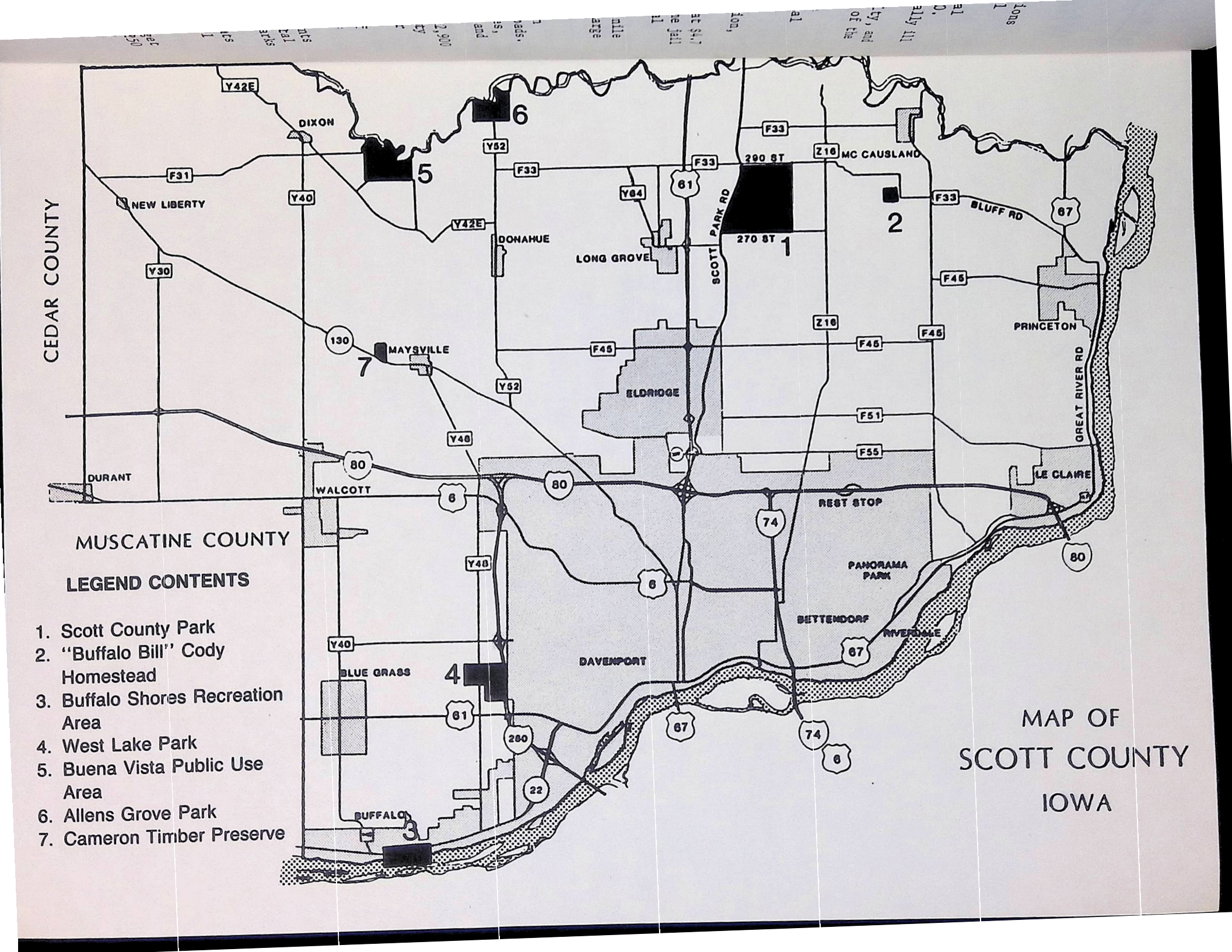
Justice and Safety is the third largest function expenditure at $4.7 million. Investigating crimes, responding to calls, supervising the jail and other public safety programs account for $3,173,242 of the total budget. Criminal prosecution and juvenile justice are also a large part of Justice and Safety.



The main cost in Public Services is roads. Maintenance of bridges, culverts, roadsides, and road surfaces are projected to be $2,362,900 in 1987-88. The county library system, senior citizen services and various general relief programs also comprise Public Services.

Capital Improvements is only 8.4% of the total budget, and includes parks and roads construction projects and improvements to the county's physical plant.

Debt Service, the smallest of the six budget functions, totals $484,250 and consists of jail and conservation bonds.



LEGEND CONTENTS

1. Scott County Park
2. "Buffalo Bill" Cody Homestead
3. Buffalo Shores Recreation Area
4. West Lake Park
5. Buena Vista Public Use Area
6. Allens Grove Park
7. Cameron Timber Preserve

MAP OF SCOTT COUNTY IOWA